(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d)The Government of India is aware of the reports that agencies inimical to India's interests, including the ISI, are misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. The Government of India has been regularly taking up these security- related issues with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The Bangladesh Government has stated that it will not allow undesirable elements to use its territory for activities prejudicial to the security interests of India.

Issue of fake passports

†825. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake passports are still being issued unhindered in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any steps to prevent the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. However, from time to time concerned security agencies *e.g.* police, emigration checkpoints etc. detect cases of passports having been issued to applicants who have submitted incorrect personal particulars.

(b) and (c) As and when a person with such passports is caught, legal action as per the provisions of the law is taken by the concerned authorities and the passport is impounded/revoked. Government has also strengthened measures to make the passport tamper proof by improvements in the security features of Indian Passports. The policy verification is designed to ensure that passports are issued after confirmation of the identity and nationality of the applicant.

Maoists bases in the border States

826. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Maoists from Nepal have set up their bases in India particularly in the border States;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.